

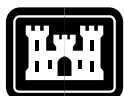
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**US Army Corps
of Engineers
New England District**

Volume 41, No. 1

Yankee Engineer

October 2004

Corps supports Massachusetts Military Reservation groundwater cleanup

By Tim Dugan
Public Affairs Office

The District team from the Massachusetts Military Reservation and the Concord headquarters office joined other federal, state and local agencies in a groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 5 to mark the start of the groundwater cleanup at the Impact Area Groundwater Study Program's site near Demolition Area 1 at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod, Mass. The occasion was marked by dignitaries touring the groundwater treatment site and the soil cleanup site at Demolition 1 Area on Camp Edwards. The event concluded with the groundbreaking or "turning on" the water valves that symbolized the start up of the water treatment process. "Being a national leader in cleaning up contaminated lands to protect public health and the environment is an integral part of the

Army's mission," said Raymond Fatz, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health). "Today, we are seeing the results of the Groundwater Study Program's work to attain this overarching vision here at Camp Edwards." Representing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff at the ceremony were Division Engineer Brig. Gen. Merdith "Bo"

Temple, District Engineer Col. Thomas Koning, Deputy District Engineer Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, and Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management William Scully. The event marked the startup of an extraction, treatment and re-injection system at the Frank Perkins Road site southwest of the Demolition Area 1 site. The groundwater treatment system is

designed to remove the explosives chemical RDX (Royal Demolition Explosive) and other contaminants, along with the oxidizer perchlorate from the central area of a plume of groundwater that has migrated more than 9,000 feet from Demo 1.

"Today's beginning of active groundwater cleanup at Camp Edwards is an example of the government working for the people of Cape Cod, and I especially

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Media and VIPs at the MMR soil treatment facility.

Photo by Tim Dugan

Yankee Voices

Lorraine Cronin
Resource Management



Thrift Savings Plan open season underway

The Thrift Saving Plan (TSP) open season began Oct. 15 and continues through Dec. 31. During this open season, employees covered by CSRS and FERS can increase their maximum contributions to 10 percent and 15 percent respectively. The IRS elective deferral limit is increasing to \$14,000 for 2005.

Employees who elect to terminate their TSP contributions during this open season will be permitted to participate in the next open season (April 15 – June 30). Termination actions will be effective at the end of the pay period in which they are generated.

The limits for 2005 will increase from \$3,000 to \$4,000 annually. Due to the changing IRS limits, employees must make a new TSP contribution election each year.

Employees will be able to create their transactions either through the Employee Benefits Information System (EMIS) by accessing the ABC-C homepage (<https://www.abc.army.mil>) or through the Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) by dialing 1-877-276-9287.

Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation by President George W. Bush

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we recognize Hispanic Americans for helping to shape our national character and strengthen our communities. The warmth and vitality of the Hispanic culture are great gifts to America and are part of the unique fabric of our country.

Hispanic Americans have enriched our Nation through contributions in many professions and fields, including education, law, government, business, science, sports, and the arts. Since our Nation's founding, Hispanic Americans have served bravely in the United States Armed Forces, earning more than three dozen Medals of Honor and numerous distinguished military decorations for their leadership, courage, and patriotism.

Today, Hispanic Americans in our Armed Forces, National Guard, and Reserve units continue this proud legacy as they stand watch on the front lines of freedom. The hard work, values, and devotion to community of Hispanic Americans set a positive example for all Americans.

Across our country, we are working to continue helping Hispanic Americans realize the great promise of America. In 2002, I set a goal of increasing the number of minority homeowners by at least 5.5 million by the end of the decade. We are making good progress — having added more than 1.6 million minority homeowners so far.

My Administration's business agenda and economic policies have helped create an environment in which Latino small business owners in the United States are starting new businesses and employing millions of people, expanding trade throughout the Americas, and generating billions in revenue. Through the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, we are working to ensure that schools are serving every student. In addition, we are committed to improving immigration services while strengthening national security. I join with all Americans in celebrating the heritage, culture, spirit, and contributions of Hispanic Americans.

I join with all Americans in celebrating the heritage, culture, spirit, and contributions of Hispanic Americans. To honor the achievements of Hispanic Americans, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2004, as National Hispanic Heritage Month.

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District Engineer Col. Thomas L. Koning
Chief, Public Affairs Larry Rosenberg



Editor Ann Marie R. Harvie
Media Relations Officer..... Timothy J. Dugan
Community Relations Officer..... Sally M. Rigione
PA Intern..... Kimberly Osgerby

Commander's Corner: Volunteerism

By Col. Thomas Koning
District Engineer



This will be short, but no less heartfelt than any of the other articles I have written for the Yankee Engineer over the past two years. I want to thank the countless volunteers whose efforts make this organization as great as it is.

This past month has brought home the efforts and sacrifices of our volunteers and those who remain behind.

The District has 10 people currently deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism. From Kuwait, to Qatar, to Afghanistan to Iraq the face of New England is there. We have 10 more volunteers ready to deploy; the DDE on Oct. 31, a five man team on Nov. 29, and a four man team on Dec. 28 — all going to Iraq. We appreciate their service and sacrifice far from home.

As hurricane after hurricane assaulted our southern shores this fall, we have had even more volunteers rise to the challenge to help those in need. Most recently, we had over 40 people deployed to hurricane duty from Puerto Rico to Louisiana doing jobs from ESF-3 Team Leader, to our Water

PRT, to overseeing roofing contractors effecting repairs. When the Nation calls, the Corps always responds.

While we appreciate all that our volunteers do wherever they deploy, there is always a cost. Those who remain behind are volunteers even if they do not know it, because when an office-mate deploys, someone must pick up the work left behind. As outlined above, 50 deployed people is right at 10-percent of the New England workforce! This is an amazing high percentage of people gone and to keep all the home District projects and missions continuing to perform as superbly as they do.

Lastly, within the District, the efforts of the WE Committee are never more appreciated than they are today. Their efforts to make everyday life in the District more enjoyable while also conducting special events is nothing short of outstanding.

On behalf of the entire District leadership team, I want to thank each and every one of you for a job well done. In this environment, the days can become long and the hours seem never-ending, but your efforts are truly appreciated. Each of you is making a difference in the position you are serving here within the District, while serving disaster victims, or while serving abroad. Thank you again for living up to the Army Value of Selfless Service.

Congratulations...

...to **Ann Marie Harvie**, Public Affairs Office, and her husband Brian, on the birth of their daughter, Rachel Elizabeth on Oct. 2. Congratulations also go to Juan Reyes, Logistics Office, and his wife Maureen, on the birth of their granddaughter.

...to **John Almeida**, Office of Counsel, and his wife Marci on the birth of their first child, Russell Leo Almeida on Oct. 6.

...to **Claire Sullivan**, Lower Connecticut River Basin Administrative Officer, who was selected as the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for October 2004. Claire was selected for exceptional, timely and cost-effective implementation of the P2 Program and transition from CEFMS to P2 in the New England District. She worked with the District P2 Implementation Team to prepare Work Breakdown Structures for Con/Ops, PPMD and other District elements. She took the lead for creating WBS for Barre Falls Dam which could be used as a template for all of the Districts flood control projects and the Cape Cod Canal.

...to the Regulatory Division "Scan Team," of **Kevin Branch, Rebecca LeBlanc, Chris Mackos, Susan Mehigan, Greg Penta, Alexine Raineri, and Ashley Worthing**, as the WE Committee

Team of the Month for October 2004. The team's mission was to digitize Regulatory's older files so hard copies need not be retained. Not only was the mission accomplished, but team members displayed outstanding initiative in getting "challenging hardcopy formats" into digital format, found ways to improve QA/QC procedures, and formatted the database to make retrieval of documents easier. They pulled together as a team and accomplished more in less time than expected.

Sympathy...

...to **Robert "Bobby" Byrne, Jr.**, Programs/Project Management Division, on the passing of his father, Robert H. Byrne on September 19.

...to the family of retired New England District employee Maj. **William H. "Mac" McGondel** (Retired U.S. Army) who died on Oct. 3 after a brief illness. He worked in Resource Management Office.

...to the family of retiree **Sally Palombo** who died on Oct. 1. She worked in the Technical Liaison Office and later Engineering/Planning Division before retiring in 1985.



Photos by CJ Allen

From left, clockwise: Dave Margolis briefs media and VIPs; Gina Kaso with Brig. Gen. Temple and Col. Koning; Scott Michalak briefs Brig. Gen. Temple; Mr. Fatz pours first glass of water from facility; Bill Scully and Dave Margolis listen to briefings; Hap Gonser briefs attendees, and; Brig. Gen. Temple and Col. Koning discuss the media day events.

Corps supports MMR groundwater cleanup

Continued from Page 1

commend the citizen members of the Impact Area Review Team for their hard work, commitment and desire to make a difference," said Ira Leighton, Deputy Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region 1). Mr. Leighton thanked Rep. William Delahunt's (D-Mass) for his support to MMR.

"This has been seven years of really hard work," he said. "Protecting this aquifer and restoring it is going to make a difference in the quality of life of the residents who live down here permanently and for the hundreds of thousands of people that spend time on Cape Cod in light of what a wonderful environment it represents. This is an important problem and we are fixing it," he said.

Program Manager Kent 'Hap' Gonser, of the Impact Area Groundwater Study Program, introduced the speakers and provided a project overview prior to the ceremony.

"As guardians of the groundwater of the Commonwealth, it is our responsibility to ensure that the cleanup of Camp Edwards is fully protective of the public health and our sensitive ecological environment—and that it happens sooner rather than later," said Gary Moran, Southeast Regional Director for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. "Today, we

are celebrating an important goal and that is restoring the natural resources of Camp Edwards."

Representing Congressman Delahunt was District Director Mark Forest of the Hyannis Office. "Our vision for MMR is quite simple and that is to have a vibrant, healthy, robust and modernized installation here. In order to do that we need to continue to make these investments in protecting our environment. I think that's basically the commitment that the military has made to the community and the Pentagon has delivered on that commitment."

"It's a very, very exciting time to be here and to be involved in MMR," Mr. Forest said. "The cleanup that we are doing here is an investment in the long-term viability and health of the Upper Cape's aquifer. Like a lot of things at MMR we are a model and we're paving new ground."

"The lessons that we learn from this effort are not just for MMR - we're not just doing this project to clean up MMR. What we learn here as we go through this will be crucial in tackling other problems around the country," he said. "The lessons that we learn here, the approaches that we pioneered here with respect to this project are lessons that we will be able to apply around the country."

The dignitaries made site tours of Demolition Area 1 and the groundwater

treatment facility at the Frank Perkins Road site.

Corps Support to MMR

"The Corps support to the Massachusetts Military Reservation goes back to 2000," said Gina Kaso, of Programs/Project Management Division, Military Project Management Branch. In September 2000, the National Guard Bureau announced its decision to use the New England District as supervisory contractor for the Impact Area Groundwater Study.

The program is now being run by the U.S. Army Environmental Center. "The study is being conducted in accordance with Administrative Orders issued by EPA under the Safe Drinking Water Act," Gina said. The transition to supervisory contractor was complete in January 2001. The work is estimated to cost \$350 million, last six to 10 years and involve completing groundwater and unexploded ordnance (UXO) studies followed by cleanup project implementation.

"The Corps is currently working with the Army's Impact Area Groundwater Study Program to complete environmental studies and develop both long-term and short-term goals to accomplish remedial designs and cleanup activities for the project," Gina said.



In September 2002 a task order was awarded to Environmental Chemical Corporation to prepare an unexploded ordnance (UXO) characterization work plan. Also in September 2002, New England District awarded a task order to AMEC Earth and Environmental, of Westford, Mass., a contractor accessed through a National Guard Bureau nationwide contract and involved with the project since 1997, to continue investigation work on the site. In May 2003, New England District awarded a task order to ECC to start soil environmental restoration at Demolition Area 1 (Demo 1 Soil Rapid Response Action), the first significant clean-up activity on the project.

After extensive UXO anomaly removal, soil excavation at Demo 1 started in November 2003 and soil treatment started in March 2004. Soil treatment was suspended temporarily while excavation continued and resumed on July 7, 2004. Demo 1 Soil Rapid Response Action is substantially complete. Confirmatory samples are under review. "At the Demolition Area 1 site, contaminated soil is being removed and being treated by thermal desorption which uses heat to separate contaminants from soil and oxidize them," Gina said. "In September 2003, New England District awarded a task order to ECC for additional significant soil cleanup at the southeast ranges."

Anomaly removal is substantially complete

at both the J-2 and the J-3 Ranges. Excavation began in mid-July 2004. Soil is being treated on site in the thermal unit. Other sites designated for soil excavation and treatment this fall are CIA targets, Demo 2, BIP Soils, and HUTA Soils. Also being treated at the unit are soils from CS19, an AFCE site located within the impact area.

In January 2004, a task order was awarded to AMEC Earth and Environmental to start temporary interim groundwater cleanup of the Demo-1 plume, the first significant groundwater remediation project for the program.

The Demo 1 Groundwater Interim groundwater pumping and treatment went on-line Sept. 8, 2004. Frank Fedele, chief of the South Central Resident Office, and John Macpherson, construction project engineer, oversee the construction management of the project.

"This is a significant milestone with the transition from investigation to cleanup and treatment of the contaminated groundwater after seven years in the planning stages," Frank said.

This is the first site in the country that perchlorate has actually been treated, officials said. Construction representative Mike Degrazia oversaw the day-to-day construction activities and UXO Safety Specialist Ralph Turner was responsible

for overseeing the removal of some 60,000 anomalies. Both work at the Corps resident office. Heather Sullivan, now in Programs/Project Management, was the engineering technical lead in 2003 and oversaw the development of the work plan for Demo 1. Ian Osgerby, EP, oversaw the technical aspects of the thermal desorption unit.

"The treatment system extracts contaminated groundwater from the aquifer and treats it using a combination of containers filled with granular activated carbon or ion exchange resins," said David Margolis, of Engineering/Planning Division, who oversees all engineering technical leads on MMR. "These attract the contaminants and pull them out of the water. The cleaned water is then injected into the aquifer."

The revised Draft Feasibility Study for the Demo 1 Groundwater Operable Unit for Camp Edwards was published on May 20, 2004. This is a study exploring a long-term solution to the groundwater contamination at the Demo 1 site.

"Six remedial alternatives were developed and are currently being reviewed and evaluated," said Scott Michalak, of Engineering/Planning Division, and the engineering technical lead for the Demo 1 Groundwater Operable Unit. (*MMR's Impact Area Groundwater Study Program contributed to this report.*)

District Engineer talks 'safety' to regional park rangers

District Engineer Col. Thomas Koning had the opportunity to address a diverse group of federal, state and local park rangers and park managers from across the region at the New England Park Ranger Association (NEPRA) Conference Sept. 22 in Westminster, Mass.

"I want to acknowledge that park rangers and managers have some of the toughest jobs in the government, whether on the federal, state or local level," Col. Koning said in his opening remarks. He provided an overview of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District's mission and responsibilities and discussed his recent experiences while serving in Iraq.

"You as a group help protect and manage the natural, cultural and recreational resources in New England. That is an important responsibility," Col. Koning said. "You also help ensure that each park visitor is safe and has an enjoyable experience. That's just as important."

Rangers affiliated with NEPRA, many of which were represented at the conference, include the Massachusetts' Department of Conservation and Recreation, the U.S. Forest Service, the Boston Park Rangers, the Trustees of Reservations, the Danvers Park Rangers (Mass.), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,

the National Park Service, the Vermont Forests and Parks, the Portland Park Rangers (Maine), the Baxter State Park (Maine), Lake George Regional Park (Maine), the Sudbury Valley Trustees (Mass.), and the city of Peabody (Mass.). The conference theme was "Stay Safe in Our Parks."

"In the post 9-11 world, these challenges have been dramatically increased as we explore ways to improve and expand our security at parks, recreation areas, dams, historic landmarks and other sites," Col. Koning said. "We can't afford to become targets. So we must become guardians at the gate, sentinels of democracy."

"Security has become a major concern since 9-11 and now is a daily way of life," he said. "It's a changed world and we must change with it. We must be more aware of our immediate surroundings at work and at home and be every more vigilant in our day-to-day lives as we go through the day meeting our many responsibilities at work and at home. This is how we can ensure we 'stay safe in our parks.'"

In January 2004, Col. Koning deployed to Iraq and served in Operation Iraqi Freedom as Commander of the Gulf Region Southern District in Basrah, Iraq.

He served there through July 2004.

His presentation included photos from his experiences in Iraq.

"We can't afford to let our guard down," Col. Koning told the rangers. "We must be more diligent in observing what is happening at our facilities. We must work closer with law enforcement agencies and improve our communications and coordination between those park rangers in the field and at the home office. We can share lessons learned with our colleagues in the other agencies at conferences such as this one."

The conference included sessions on drug awareness, basic self-defense, breaking down interagency barriers, geese control, cult activity awareness, as well as a business meeting and elections.

NEPRA is an association created to promote the advancement of the park ranger profession by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas through interaction with park professionals, educators and others interested in the ranger profession. NEPRA plays a leadership role in encouraging the highest of standards of public service in the region. The association is committed to enhancing the ranger profession through training, networking, research and social enrichment.

Golf League Finals

After 12 weeks of head-to-head match play, a.k.a. Par Wars, eight teams of hackers, grinders, and layabouts moved on to the playoffs: Bill Holtham and Joe Colucci; Scott Michalak and Jeannie Warnock; Mark Anderson and Alex Garneau; Larry Rosenberg and Bob Desista; Raimo Liias and Ed O'Donnell; Sheila Warren and Doug Gifford; Joe Bocchino and Mark Otis, and; Mike Keegan and John Kennelly.

Photos by CJ Allen



Scott Michalak, league chairman, on Sandy Burr's 18th green. Larry Rosenberg and Bob Desista (inset).



Photos by Brian Murphy

District team 'eats up' WE Committee pie fest

The WE Committee fiscal year-end celebration and Pie Fest on Oct. 5 was a huge success, according to event organizers.

"We had a great variety of pies and I know some pies won't last long next year after people got a taste of them this year," said Bob Meader, of Engineering-Planning Division, and a key organizer of the event.

New England District employees were treated to 31 pies, 7 gallons of cider,

4 bags of apples and candy corn, and lots of decorations.

"A special thanks goes out to all those who volunteered to bring in pies or supplies and helped decorate," said Jerry Stalder, deputy chief of Construction-Operations Division, and WE Committee Chairman.

For upcoming WE Committee events (i.e. the Pumpkin Carving Contest, and the Halloween Costume Contest) check the e-Weekly Bulletin.



Clockwise from top left: Paul Howard takes one (slice) for the team; Members of District PDT (a Popular and Delicious Treat) queue up, napkins in hand; Paula Kullberg and Marie Farese keep their priorities in order; Mary Christopher and her current passion, Peach Cobbler, and; Barbara Newman signals the blueberry is both "light and fluffy."

Combined Federal Campaign kicks off this month

The 2004 Combined Federal Campaign for the New England District will run from Oct. 22 through Nov. 19.

The theme this year is "Caring For Our Community," emphasizing the belief that each person can make a difference by contributing to a charity. The Office of Contracting is managing the District's efforts this year.

The goal this year is 100-percent solicitation and wide use of the payroll deduction plan. More information is available from each office's CFC representative. General information about upcoming activities and events is available on the website: <https://easternmasscfc.com/index.asp>

More than 200 crowd joint public hearing on motorsports country club permit in New Hampshire

By Tim Dugan
Public Affairs
Office

More than 200 people attended the New Hampshire, Department of Environmental Services and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers joint public hearing on the proposed Motorsports Country Club Oct. 6, at the Kenneth A. Brett School in Tamworth, New Hampshire.

The Motorsports Holdings, LLC, is seeking a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit to place fill in wetlands and streams for the construction of a motorsports country club with an associated road course and support facilities in Tamworth. The project would be located on a 251-acre site immediately off of Route 25 in Tamworth. The applicant has also requested a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for the proposed work.

The Corps of Engineers, New England District, Deputy District Engineer Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson was the hearing officer and provided an overview of the Corps jurisdiction in the environmental review of the proposed project.

Paul Currier, Administrator, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Watershed Management Bureau, Water Division, explained the state's review process. The Corps permit project manager Michael Hicks was also on the hearing panel. Also attending the meeting was Frank Delgiudice, chief of the District's Regulatory Branch that covers the states of New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine.

Craig C. Lizotte, project engineer for ESS Group, Inc. presented an overview of the proposed project. The proposed project would include the construction of a motorsports country club with an



More than 200 concerned individuals took the time to communicate to the Corps their concerns on the proposed Motorsports project.

associated 3.1 mile road course, access road, parking and facilities for the repair, garaging, and servicing of high-quality vehicles and accommodations and dining facilities for club members, guests and visitors to New Hampshire. Approximately 0.73 acres of wetlands/stream would be filled by site development activities, which would include the filling of 14,759 square feet of wetlands and an impact of 165,952 square feet to intermittent streams. The meeting was well attended and 57 people signed up to give testimony. The meeting lasted until 11 p.m.

Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs, was the hearing moderator. "It is crucial to this public process that your voice is heard and we're here to listen," Rosenberg said. "The Corps of Engineers has made no decision with regard to this permit. It is our responsibility to fully evaluate the Motorsports Holding proposed activity and its impacts prior to our decision." The project purpose is to develop a motorsports country club, unique to New Hampshire, which has a European-style road course and associated professional support services for repair, garaging and servicing high performance vehicles, as well as providing first-class accommodations and dining for club members, guests, and visitors to other travel destinations in New Hampshire.

"The Corps jurisdiction in this case is Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

that regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States, to include wetlands," Lt. Col. Nelson said. "A Section 401 certification is required from the state of New Hampshire because the project requires a federal permit for activities such as construction or operation of the

project that may result in discharge to surface water."

The site contains vegetated wetlands consisting of swamps and low-lying hemlock stands, and wet meadows, and the site contains intermittent streams that consist of first and second order mountain streams that range from 1 to 15 feet wide.

"Our decision will reflect the national concern for both the protection and utilization of important resources, that the benefits that may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseen detriments," Lt. Col. Nelson said. Proposed mitigation for the project includes the preservation of a 107-acre parcel of land within the Bearcamp River Watershed in Sandwich, N.H. and restoration of 450 square feet of on-site stream channel.

"Federal law requires that the Corps may only permit the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative," Lt. Col. Nelson said. The Corps must evaluate alternatives to avoid or minimize impacts on waters and wetlands. "In determining practicability, the Corps considers such factors as cost, safety, technical feasibility and community impacts. Please feel free to bring up any and all topics that you feel need to be discussed on the record. I assure you that all your comments will be addressed during this process."

Retirement snatches two elite District team members

Bill Haynes

After 33 years of federal service, William "Bill" Haynes of Construction-Operations Division retired on Sept. 30, to continue his quest to dine at every fancy restaurant in New England. A farewell luncheon was held Sept. 30 in the courtyard of the District headquarters at Concord Park, Mass.

Bill started work at New England Division as a trainee civil engineer in September 1972 and retired as a project engineer. He also worked for the U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division from June 1969 to December 1971.

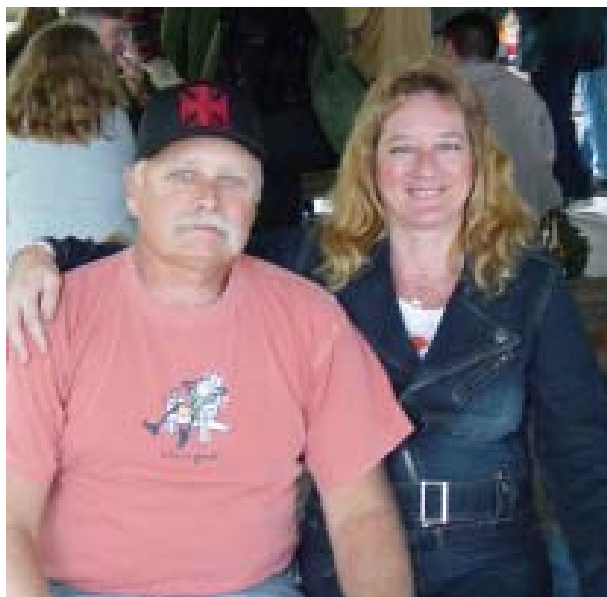
Jim Holbrook

After 29-and-a-half years of federal service, Jim Holbrook, of Edward MacDowell Lake, retired on Sept. 30. A farewell lunch was held Sept. 28 at the Edward MacDowell Lake in Peterborough, New Hampshire.

"I started my career with the Corps at Surry Mountain Lake in May 1978 as a dam operator helper," Jim said during the ceremony. "I worked there for about three years and lateraled to Otter Brook Lake for about two years and then went back to Surry Mountain Lake for two years. Following that I started at Edward MacDowell Lake in 1985 as an assistant project manager," he said.

Jim served four years in the U.S. Navy after graduating from Keene High School in 1966. He also worked in the private sector for eight years before starting with the Corps of Engineers.

About 40 people, including four retirees, attended the farewell lunch. Rob Shanks, Acting Park Manager, Edward MacDowell Lake, served as the master of ceremonies. Jim's wife, Linda, and his son, Ryan, also attended. He was presented a framed photo of the Edward MacDowell Lake from the Lake staff and a gift certificate from District donations.



Bill Haynes Photos by Mark McInerney



From Top: Jim and Linda Holbrook; Col. Koning presents Bill his retirement certificate; Rob Shanks presents Jim his retirement certificate; Jim Doucakis attempts to speak louder than Bill; Col. Koning tells Bill Haynes stories; A crowd gathers to honor their friend, and; John Winmill wishes Bill the brightest of futures.

New England continues to benefit from Corps hurricane barriers and flood protection projects

By Tim Dugan
Public Affairs Office

As far as damages prevented or flooding that could have occurred without Corps projects in New England, the effects of the remnants of hurricanes Ivan, Frances and Jeanne in 2004 were considered minor to New England and as a result no significant regulation activities at Corps barriers and dams were needed. Streams in New England rose to well under bank full capacity as a result of some of the rains

associated with Ivan, but no problems or incidents of flooding were reported. Corps dams stored minimum amounts of runoff. The effects of these recent hurricane remnants were not significant in New England, and, as a result, no "damages prevented" were recognized.

However, as the New England region is prone to severe storms, flooding and occasional hurricanes, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District has constructed and maintains many structures for flood damage reduction and control.

Since the disastrous floods of the 1930s the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has constructed a network of 36 dams and 91 local flood protection projects in New England. These facilities were constructed at a cost of \$538 million. They have prevented damages of almost \$3 billion.

In mid-September 1938, a hurricane, with winds up to 186 miles per hour, lashed New England. The square in downtown Providence, Rhode Island, was under 10 feet of water, and tides of more than 14 feet above mean sea level were recorded in Buzzards Bay, Mass. The storm claimed 488 lives and inflicted damages in New England in excess of \$120 million.

In 1954 Hurricanes "Carol" and "Edna" produced near record tidal flooding in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. "Carol" put Providence under eight feet of water and caused damages of more than \$40 million. Hurricanes "Connie" and "Diane" occurred back-to-back in mid-August 1955. "Diane" alone dropped 12-20 inches of rain on ground already saturated by "Connie." Ninety lives were lost and the region sustained \$540

million in damages. In western Massachusetts and Connecticut, another storm in October of the same year caused 17 people to lose their lives and created an estimated \$50 million in damages.

In the wake of these disastrous storms, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers designed and built a new type of protective work along

the region's southern coast. During the 1960s hurricane protection barriers were completed at Providence, Rhode Island; New Bedford, Mass.; and Stamford and Stonington, Conn. A fifth protection project was completed in 1986 at New London, Conn.

The Fox Point

Hurricane Barrier, located about one mile south of the heart of downtown Providence, R.I., spans the Providence River. Authorized in 1958, construction was begun in 1961 and completed in 1966 at a cost of \$14.8 million. In a recurrence of a storm of the magnitude of the 1938 flood of record, the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier would prevent damages in excess of \$284 million. To date, more than \$2.4 million in damages have been prevented.

In Stonington, Conn., the Pawcatuck-Stonington Hurricane Protection Project is located on the West Bank of the Pawcatuck River at the Rhode Island-Connecticut state line. Begun in 1962, construction of the \$920,000 project was completed in 1963.

The works afford protection to a 31-acre industrial area and are operated and maintained by the town of Stonington. The smallest of the five hurricane protection projects, Pawcatuck would prevent damages of \$10 million in a recurrence of the 1938 storm of record.

In Massachusetts, the New Bedford-Fairhaven-Acushnet Hurricane Flood Protection Project was started in 1962 and completed in 1966 at a cost of \$18.6 million.

The New England District operates and maintains the navigation gate and main harbor barrier with funds provided by local interests. The remainder of the project is the responsibility of local interests. This barrier affords complete tidal-flood protection to an area of about 1,400 acres, representing about 80 percent of the area flooded in the September 1938 and August 1954 hurricanes. It is heavily populated with industrial and commercial properties, particularly along the waterfront and the shores of the Acushnet River.



Hurricane Ivan as seen from the International Space Station.

NASA Image

New England District and West Hill Dam host National Public Lands Day in the midst of Hurricane Ivan

By Viola Bramel
Park Ranger, West Hill Dam

The pouring rains from Hurricane Ivan, Sat., Sept. 18, couldn't keep about 20 volunteers away from the annual National Public Lands Workday at West Hill Park and Dam.

Nor could it keep about 30 from returning to complete projects on other days. "Look I have a dry spot"! became the battle cry as volunteers secured beach buoys, cleared brush and helped spiff up the park and trails for the upcoming winter season.

A local running club, the Tri-Valley Runners, completed clearing brush along two-and-a-half-miles of the Woodland Trail on Mon., Sept. 27.

Students from Lexington High School, who found the National Lands Day event while searching the web for Environmental Volunteer Opportunities, joined some local residents to canoe the West River and clear

brush for canoeists and kayakers. The West River is popular for enthusiasts as well as families who canoe and kayak here regularly. About five miles of the river channel was cleared of brush. Those who paddle to view the fall colors or local hunters will now have an easier time traveling this popular stretch of river.

Returning for their fifth year, Advanced and Junior Ranger graduates Ethan and Isaac Bates were well prepared with raincoats and boots. They pitched in with all the grit and enthusiasm, along with their dad, that reflects their high civic ethics we have been privileged to know.

Park Hosts Bob and Brenda Klinger joined the ranks that day, as did Joseph Faloretti, Merlon Bassett, John Braid and Viola Bramel. Some volunteers along with John and Betty Bartman, Buffumville Lake, were called and invited to reschedule for work details with crews returning on other days.

As always, the support from the Buffumville Lake staff, who loaned tools and materials, helped ensure a very successful event for all involved.

Despite the rains, volunteers contributed about \$1,500 in labor to the upkeep of the public lands at West Hill Dam.

Returning work crews and projects throughout the fall will benefit our Nation with a donation of labor totaling about an additional \$3,000. Local sponsors; William's Jumbo Donuts, Blackstone River Watershed Association, Blackstone River Heritage Canal State Park, Dunkin Donuts, Victory Supermarket, Shaw's Supermarket, Home Depot, and McDonalds donated goods and in-kind services valued at \$300.

"This truly gives meaning to the theme 'Helping Hands for America' and I am sure if there was ever a need they would have filled and stacked sandbags too," said Joe. "We were dressed for the weather, persevered and made the best of what nature gave us."

Visitors of all ages danced, clapped and had fun at the Campfire Jam West Hill Dam Coupled the Live Band "Radio Ranch" With the End of Season Family Campfire

Perspective and photos by Viola Bramel
Park Ranger, West Hill Dam

In your mind . . . pan across West Hill Park . . . on a summer evening, late August. It is warm, no one needs jackets and some are barefoot. A glowing campfire bids visitors of all ages to be at peace in this outdoor setting. The band is nestled beneath the shelter.

The sun sets . . . Older couples cuddle on a picnic bench, others dance and some parents hold infants and toddlers as they whirl to the music. Children are climbing on the playground before sunset, others are playing tag near the beach, parents and children are toasting marshmallows, some are dancing to the sounds of the local country music band Radio Ranch; "country music with a kick".

Smiles and contentment are everywhere, even seniors beam as they gently bring warm marshmallows to their lips or help youngsters reach the campfire.

Sticky fingers and faces are the norm. Families, seniors, volunteers and even a few pets, about 70 park visitors, kicked up their heels and others leaned back to relax beneath the starlit sky.

Members of the group Radio Ranch (Southbridge, Mass.) entertained us from the park shelter, with a variety of tunes that pleased all generations in attendance. The band members were serenading the crowd to relax, dance and enjoy the summer night.

Family night campfires have become popular at West Hill Dam and we hope to host several each summer.

Celebrated each year before the first day of class, the Ranger Team from West Hill Dam and Park has invited their neighbors and friends to sing, dance, toast marshmallows, bring their children and enjoy each other's company.



Working as one community, the rangers of the West Hill Dam taught how to build safe campfires to children while enjoying the sounds of the evening with friends and family.

Dredging up the past . . .



Senator Edward M. Kennedy (from left) and Congressman J. Joseph Moakley joined Assistant Secretary of the Army-Civil Works, Dr. Joseph Westphal (right), in presenting Vice President Gore's Hammer Award to Pete Jackson, project manager, and the Boston Harbor Dredging Implementation Team during a ceremony held Feb. 29, 2000, at the Fish Pier Conference Center in Boston, Mass. Employees from the New England District, Great Lakes Dredge & Dock, Co., the Massachusetts Port Authority (MASSPORT), and other state agencies made up the Implementation Team.

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